

## Decision Record

EA Number: OR-056-03-074

Title of Action: Peck's Milkvetch Test Burning

BLM Office: Prineville District

**Decision:** Under the direction and supervision of fuels treatment crews, burn portions of three populations of Peck's milkvetch (*Astragalus peckii*) at the following locations:

Brandywine – T. 16 S., R. 11 E., Sec. 8

Innes Mkt. – T. 16 S., R. 11 E., Sec. 10

Driveway – T. 16 S., R. 11 E., Sec. 18

Control will be accomplished using existing roads, breaks in vegetation, water and hand line, as required. At each site, one acre or less will be burned.

**Alternatives Considered:** One alternative (Alternative 2) involves burning at all sites only using a propane torch to burn individual plants. The other alternative (Alternative 3) is no action.

**Rationale for Decision:** This decision is made to allow for an increase in our knowledge base about the effects of fire on Peck's milkvetch and therefore to help us manage the species. Alternative 1 (Proposed Action) was chosen since this represents the most natural conditions under which this vegetation would burn, as opposed to Alternative 2, which exclusively uses a propane torch on individual plants. The action conforms to the existing land use plan.

One adjacent landowner commented on the proposed action, expressing their concern about allowing fire during times of high fire danger. As proposed, a prescribed fire plan will be prepared prior to project initiation, specifying the parameters under which burning would be allowed to enable complete control of the fire at all times. Under no circumstances will burning be allowed if the conditions are outside the parameters identified.

Alternative 2 (propane torch only) was not chosen since it would not provide for monitoring of primarily natural fire effects on at least one population of Peck's milkvetch. The No Action alternative was not chosen as this action is necessary to complete the disturbance ecology study of Peck's milkvetch, as described in the project plan prepared by Oregon Department of Agriculture. In this plan, fire is an important disturbance factor and its effects on Peck's milkvetch need to be better understood.

**Compliance and Monitoring:** Monitoring of the implementation phase of the project will be accomplished by the fuels treatment crew during implementation. Post-treatment monitoring of Peck's milkvetch will be done by Oregon Department of Agriculture through a challenge cost share agreement.

**Terms / Conditions / Stipulations:** Mechanical disturbance of the soil surface will not be allowed.

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Deschutes Field Office Manager

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Date

**Attachments:** Map

# Peck's Milkvetch Burning Treatments

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